Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK
Love For All Hatred For None

BRIEFING UPDATE

PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

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Headlines

GATHERING HALTED

Ahmadi Muslims in Karachi were forced to disband their peaceful gathering, whilst two were attacked by extremists.

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TEACHER TARGETED

An Ahmadi Muslim teacher was falsely accused of misrepresenting Islamic teachings and was suspended following pressure by local clerics.

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GRAVES DESTROYED

Three headstones of Ahmadi Muslims in a cemetery in Dera Ghazi Khan were removed or destroyed by police.

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STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

Ahmadi Muslims face 3 years imprisonment under federal laws for:

- Self-identifying as a Muslim
- Calling their place of worship a mosque
- Making the Islamic call to prayer (Azan)
- Preaching or propagating their faith

AHMADI MUSLIM GATHERING DISRUPTED

On 26 May, in Baldia Town, Karachi, Ahmadi Muslims were holding a gathering commemorating the successors (Khulafah) of the community. Members of the far-right religious extremist organisation, Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP) attended the gathering with the police who demanded the Ahmadi Muslims stop their event and close down their mosque. While the Ahmadi Muslims disbanded their event, two Ahmadi Muslims were attacked by TLP members. At the time of the evening prayer, the mob vandalised the motorcycles and cars of Ahmadi Muslims outside the mosque.

PROTESTS AGAINST AHMADI MUSLIMS WORSHIPPING

Members of the TLP disrupted a sermon being offered at an Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Sheikhupura on 17 May. Despite intervention by security personnel, the group grew in numbers prompting the arrival of police reinforcements and three arrests. On 23 May, Sultan Rizvi, the leader of the mob in this incident, cut himself 15 times with a blade and falsely reported to the police that he was attacked by Ahmadi Muslims. He named the security guard of the Ahmadi Muslim mosque and several other Ahmadi Muslims as the perpetrators of this self-inflicted act. Rizvi continues to parade his injuries around different areas in an attempt to incite a reaction against Ahmadi Muslims.

AHMADI MUSLIM BUSINESSMAN TARGETED

On 8 May, Ahmadi Muslim business owner Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Tahir had a police case registered against him on false grounds. The complainant, Mr. Usman Riaz, owed Mr. Tahir 2.1 million Pakistani rupees. When Mr Tahir demanded a return of the loan, Mr. Riaz accused him of preaching the Ahmadi Muslim faith and involved the police. Mr. Riaz is now demanding an additional one million Pakistani rupees to withdraw the case.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AHMADI MUSLIM TEACHER

Ms. Iram Daud, an Ahmadi Muslim, teaches at the Government Model Elementary School in Muslim Colony, Rabwah. A complaint was lodged against her after she was falsely accused of misrepresenting views on the Islamic principle of the 'Finality of Prophethood'. A campaign was orchestrated against Ms. Daud by a local cleric resulting in her suspension after a hastily conducted investigation by the school administration, due to external pressure.

ANTI-AHMADI MUSLIM RALLY HELD

In Kotli, TLP held a rally in support of Palestine and in the name of the protection of the Holy Quran. Attendees took the opportunity to call for the removal of minarets and domes from all Ahmadi Muslim mosques. They also warned that if Ahmadi Muslims continued to sacrifice animals and use Islamic symbols, they will take matters into their own hands. They gave the local administration a one-month ultimatum to meet their heinous demands.

AHMADI MUSLIM GRAVES DESECRATED BY POLICE

On 29 May, in Basti Ahmad Pur, Dera Ghazi Khan, police officials desecrated headstones in an Ahmadi Muslim cemetery. Photos had been sent to the police of alleged Islamic inscriptions on the graves. The Ahmadi Muslims refused to take them down themselves. Police visited the cemetery and removed two headstones while a third had its inscriptions smashed off with a brick.

Islamic inscriptions removed

Headstones removed by police

AHMADI MUSLIMS BEHIND BARS

1

Mr. Rohan Ahmad, Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad were booked on 26 May, 2020, with FIR Nr. 29/2020 at Police Station FIA Cyber Crimes Wing, Lahore under PPCs 295-B, 298-C, 120-B, 109, 34 R/W, 2016-PECA-11, allegedly for sharing a WhatsApp message regarding a religious Quiz program and a General Knowledge competition arranged by the youth organization of the Ahmadi Muslim community. Pakistan's Cyber Crimes Department, Lahore which works under Federal Investigation Agency, arrested Mr. Rohan Ahmad.

Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad were arrested later on 30.09.2020 on reporting to the FIA office; they are in Camp Jail Lahore.Addl. Sessions Judge Lahore added the blasphemy clause PPC 295-C to the charge sheet on June29, 2021, exposing them to the penalty of death. The Supreme Court rejected their post-arrest bail application. Thereafter the High Court rejected Rohan's bail on statutory grounds on June 8, 2023. The statutory ground here means 'trial not concluded within 2 years of the arrest of the accused'. The Supreme Court of Pakistan accepted Rohan' Post Arrest Bail Application on January 15, 2024 on statutory grounds and he has returned home safely after being incarcerated for almost 4 years. The trial failed to furnish complete copies of the documents appended to the Police Report under Section 173 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). The accused filed application before trial . court for providing complete documents. The trial court dismissed the application. The Accused filed Criminal Revision against the order which is pending before Lahore High Court, Lahore.

2

Malik Zaheer Ahmad was arrested on September 30, 2020, in a fabricated case under Sections 295-B, 298-C, PECA-11, and 109. He was granted bail on February 23, 2021, and was expected to be released in four to five days after the paper formalities. On February 27, when Malik Zaheer Ahmad was expected to be released from the Camp Jail, the Cyber Crime Wing Lahore team arrested him under FIR Nr. 88 as outlined in the above case, under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, and PECA11. He was not even formally nominated in the case. His bail plea was rejected by the Supreme Court. His bail on statutory ground has been dismissed

3

Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani was arrested on January 7, 2023, from his home in Rabwah. He was booked with FIR Nr. 661/22 under the blasphemy section 295-B, PPC 298-C, and the Punjab Holy Quran (Printing and Recording) Act 2011, allegedly for printing, publishing and distributing copies of the Holy Quran as a prize among students who memorized the Holy Quran. He was sent to Jhang Jail after judicial remand and later transferred to District Jail Faisalabad. His bail plea has been rejected by Additional Sessions Judge Lalian, District Chiniot and Lahore High Court. Now his leave to appeal petition for his bail is being filed before Supreme Court of Pakistan. The accused challenged the framing of charge under sections 295B PPC and section 9(1) of The Punjab Quran (Printing and Recording) Act, 2011 but the trial court and Lahore High Court dismissed his petitions now the matter is pending before Supreme Court of Pakistan. The Supreme Court of Pakistan has accepted Mr. Mubarak Sani's Post Arrest Bail Application on 06.02.2024 and petition for amendment of charge. The Supreme Court deleted the charge under section 298C, 298B of PPC and 9(1) of Quran Act. He has returned home safely after being incarcerated for more then 1 year.

4

Mr. Shiraz Ahmad etc. were booked by Cyber Crime Police Station Lahore on June 20, 2019, under FIR Nr. 88, under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, PECA-11, for allegedly creating a group "Sindh Salamat" and sharing Ahmadiyya content in it. He was arrested from Hafizabad on February 25, 2021. Subsequently, the trial court added the Blasphemy section 295-C of PPC to the said case. His bail plea was rejected by the Supreme Court.

5

Imtiaz Ahmed is currently behind bars. An FIR No: 1/2024 under section 295-C was filed at Kotli Police Station In Azad Jammu & Kashmir on January 1st against him. His bail application has been rejected by the Sessions Court. Now an appeal against this decision will be filed before the High Court.

SOME RELEVANT PAKISTAN PENAL CODES

Offence	Section	Punishment
Injuring or defiling places of worship, with the intent to insult the religion of any class	295	Up to two years' imprisonment or fine, or both
Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage the religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs	295 A	Up to ten years' imprisonment, or fine, or both
Defiling, etc., of the Holy Quran	295 B	Life imprisonment
Use of derogatory remarks, etc; in respect of the Holy Prophet	295 C	Death and fine

Offence	Section	Punishment
Uttering words, etc., with the deliberate intent to injure religious feelings	298	Up to one year imprisonment or fine, or both
Use of derogatory remarks etc., in respect of holy personages	298 A	Three years' imprisonment, or fine, or both
Misuse of epithets, descriptions and titles etc., reserved for certain holy personages or places, by Ahmadis	298 B	Three years' imprisonment and fine
An Ahmadi, calling himself a Muslim, or preaching or propagating his faith, or outraging the religious feelings of Muslims, or posing himself as a Muslim	298 C	Three years' imprisonment and fine

Persecution Facts

SINCE JANUARY 2021

- 6 Ahmadis have been murdered for faith, raising the total to 276 since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 19 murder attempts, 10 attacks during 2022, 2 attacks in April 2023.
- Fabricated cases against 8 Ahmadis were registered during Nov 2022 and an FIR is registered against some members of Ahmadiyya leadership in Pakistan in December. Two new cases registered, one Ahmadi arrested in February 2023
- 2 Ahmadi prisoners died in custody, they were imprisoned for their faith.
- 28 Ahmadiyya mosques desecrated, 1 mosque sealed by the authorities. 8 attacked in during 2023
- 246 graves have been desecrated, 180 of these were during 2022. Burial of an Ahmadi lady denied and the graveyard sealed in November. Burial of another Ahmadi lady denied in January 2023.
- 47 new cases have been registered against Ahmadis under the blasphemy laws & Anti-Ahmadi laws, 10 of these were registered during August. A criminal case was registered against 16 Ahmadis during September and November 2022. Another case was registered against the top leadership of Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan in December 2022.
- Sacred inscription from 22 houses and shops have been removed

AHMADI MUSLIM CENSORSHIP

- The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has blocked 20 non-Pakistan based foreign websites affiliated with the worldwide community and properly registered in their respective countries. PTA has also issued notices to their operators with criminal prosecution for violating Pakistan's blasphemy and anti-Ahmadiyya laws. According to PTA any website that portrays Ahmadis as Muslims will be blocked in Pakistan.
- Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has ordered that Ahmadi channels (MTA) should not be carried by any distribution service licensee.
- In 1996, the government of Punjab issued a notification to return all nationalized educational institutions, that affected the community's 8 Schools and 2 colleges which were nationalized in 1972. Despite fulfilling all terms and conditions, and regardless of repeated requests and numerous reminders, the community's institutions are not denationalized.
- The entire population of Rabwah i.e. Ahmadiyya headquarters in Pakistan, was charged under section PPC 298-C on Dec. 15, 1989, and again on June 8, 2008. (Rabwah population is approximately 60,000.)
- The government has banned all outdoor rallies & conferences of Ahmadis in Rabwah.
- The government of Punjab has banned the publishing of the Quran and its translation
- The government of Punjab has banned the entire written works of the Founder of Ahmadiyyat.
- Ahmadiyya daily newspaper and periodicals for women, youth, children and elders were banned by a Punjab government notification.
- Authorities have prohibited sports events organized at a community level.

In Pakistan, Ahmadi Muslims are the only community who are:

Explicitly targeted by the constitutional and criminal laws

Denied voting rights for more than 35 years

Subjected to a publications ban on their entire religious texts

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